

Received & Inspected

FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

MR. LANCE BRITTIN DY 4771
301 NOREA ROAD
FRACKVILLE, PA 17932

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

I AM WRITING IN REGARDS TO THE ASTRONOMICAL AMOUNT
OF MONEY BEING CHARGED FOR A 15 MINUTE PHONE CALL.
I AM PAID \$1.20 AN HR. WHICH ADDS UP TO \$18.40 A
MONTH, THE LOWEST PHONE CARD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
AT CANTEEN IS \$10.60. EACH 15 MINUTE CALL IS \$5.15
TO CALL MY GRANDMOTHER IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

THESE PRICES ARE NOT ONLY EGREGIOUSLY INSANE, BUT THEY
SEEM TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO DISCOURAGE FAMILIAL CON-
TACT AND MENTAL, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. THE COST OF THESE
CALLS ARE IMPRACTICAL AND INEQUITABLE AND DOES NOT ALLOW

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FCC Mail Room

"This is a public comment for the
Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I've experience family and friends
~~to~~ block phones lines of me with the
higher phone rates it cost for me
to call. I have a younger brother
locked up and both of us can't call.
we take turns every other month.
Then my mother lives alone and
no one to help her. She had to cut
off her home phone cause of this.

I will try to get
other inmates to write
and gather support on
the out side.

Brian Cox
B-76694

Should I write a grievance
on this issue

Federal Communications Commission

445-12th St SW

Washington D.C. 20554

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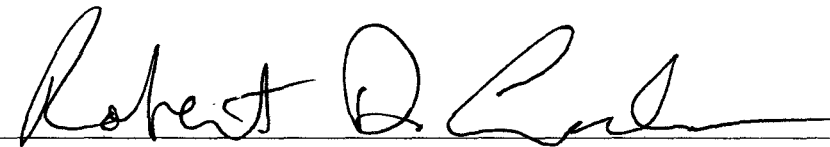
FCC Mail Room

To Whom It May Concern:

Please let this letter bring to your attention the unlawful practices regarding inmate phone calls at a correctional facility in Alabama. My father has been incarcerated for 17 years and I am his sole lifeline to the outside world. It is imperative that we are able to communicate by phone. These calls, however, place a financial hardship on my family and me. It cost between \$6.35 (online) and \$8.75 (by phone) to load money on the Account for long distance collect calls. This is in addition to the cost of the call. There is an additional fee for using a debit/credit card, which is the only feasible way to load money on the account. The actual cost of a call is anywhere from \$8.25 (in State) to \$17.00 (out of state). I pay over \$20.00 per call when you include the fees. This is for a maximum 20 minute phone call.

It is crucial that we maintain connections with our incarcerated family and friends. Visits are limited to twice a month at this particular institution and I am personally limited to fewer visits because of the long distance I must travel to visit in person (13 hour drive). Some family members of the incarcerated are less fortunate than I in that they cannot visit at all because of limited financial resources. The only chance they will ever have to speak to their loved one is over the phone. The prices for phone calls are outdated and not in line with current technology. There are services in the U.S. that offer \$10.00 dollar a month unlimited long distance and we are paying over \$20.00 per call. The Dept. of Corrections seems unmoved to do anything about this, but I have high hopes that the FCC will. Please contact me if you would like any further information. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Q. Landers", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Landers

412-315-5705

328 Emerson St #1

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Received & Inspected

FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Federal Communications Commission
445-12th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Gentlemen:

The cost of collect long distance calls for my love one cost me from \$6.35 to \$8.75 just to put money on the account to call me. It depends if I put the money on the account by phone or use the internet. They will charge a fee to put it on the account and a fee on using a credit/debit card. So there are two separate fees. The cost of the calls will cost \$8.25 in the state up to \$17.00 for them to call out of state. So we are charge varies fees and cost of the call itself.

It is very important to keep family connection because the visiting days are limited and some of us travel a long distance to visit. Some people are never able to visit because of distance, not able to drive or get someone to take you.

I am asking for your understanding of how hard this is on me and it was been going on since my love one has been in prison. It is financially a hardship on me.

BETTY Black
Name

1604 Pine Ave S.W
Address

B'ham Ala 35211
City, state & zip code

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FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

February 26, 2013

Federal Communication Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington DC 20 563

RE: Hearing on telephone call cost for incarcerated persons.

Dear FCC Members;

I am composing this short letter in protest of the absorbent cost that I face whenever I want to call a loved one from a federal prison. In the Kansas City Call weekly dated February 8 - February 14, 2013: "the FCC wants public comments to force the lowering of interstate and some local instate prison phone rates. It plans to cap the rates and put an end to the exclusivity agreements."

I am in agreement with the Kansas City Call when it states that, "It simply is not fair. It is extortion plain and simple". When a company has a monopoly on a service only because a government agency will not let other providers bid on certain contracts because of possible incentives to that particular government agency. The way that this system is set-up, family members and the incarcerated have no other choice because there are no other options. They are the only show in town; this also includes the Internet access that the incarcerated have access to as well.

I ask that the FCC Members look at this very disturbing situation and correct this type of shake down by the Federal Agency

Sincerely,

Gregory Miller

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FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

February 26, 2013

Federal Communication Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington DC 20 563

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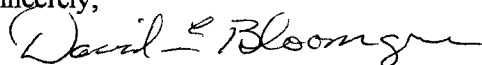
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Sincerely,  31889044

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February 26, 2013

Federal Communication Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington DC 20 563

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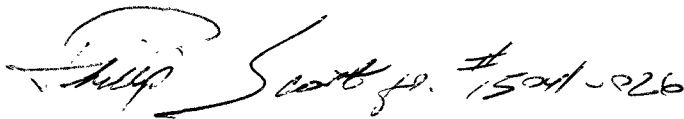
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I ask that the FCC Members look at this very disturbing situation and correct this type of shake down by the Federal Agency

Sincerely,

 Scott J. #1501-026

NOT SUBSTANTIATE THE MUCH NEEDED BALANCE BETWEEN PRISONER AND PRISONER'S FAMILY. MY GRANDMOTHER SENDS ME A VERY SMALL PORTION OF HER FIXED INCOME SO THAT I MAY CALL HOME TO KEEP THAT BOND OF LOVE INTACT. IF NOT FOR HER LOVE AND BENEVOLENCE MY CONNECTION WITH MY FAMILY WOULD SUFFER FROM UNNECESSARY HEMORRHAGING THAT WOULD BE CERTAIN TO DISMANTLE THE LOVE AND SUPPORT NEEDED TO MAINTAIN A SEMBLANCE OF SANITY IN THIS PLACE.

So, I ASK humbly that CHAIRMAN BENACHOWSKI LOOK INTO THIS SEEMINGLY UNSCRUPULOUS PRICE GOOGING THAT HAS BEEN PLAQUING PRISONS SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, AND BRING EQUITABLE AND RIGHT ORDER TO A SYSTEM THAT NEEDS RAPID REHABILITATION. I THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR ALL YOUR CONCERTED EFFORTS IN THIS MUCH NEEDED MANNER.

Respectfully,

Samuel Jeff - DY-4771

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FCC Mail Room

February 26, 2013

Federal Communication Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington DC 20 563

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I ask that the FCC Members look at this very disturbing situation and correct this type of shake down by the Federal Agency

Sincerely,

Randall Cope

Reg. No. 62248-5000
Federal Communication Commission
P. O. Box 5000
Greenville, IL 62248-5000
United States

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FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

February 26, 2013

Federal Communication Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington DC 20 563

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I ask that the FCC Members look at this very disturbing situation and correct this type of shake down by the Federal Agency

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Golden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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FCC Mail Room

February 26, 2013

Federal Communication Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington DC 20 563

RE: Hearing on telephone call cost for incarcerated persons.

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I ask that the FCC Members look at this very disturbing situation and correct this type of shake down by *all involved*

Sincerely,

Pat Shil

MARION CHILLIS G-16111
D2-117L
P.O. Box 931
Imperial, California 92251

Received & Inspected

February 19, 2013

FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: **BLOCKAGE AND DENIAL OF COLLECT TELEPHONE CALLS BY GLOBAL TEL*LINK (GTL)**

Dears Sirs:

Since 2008, I have been an inmate housed in the State of California prison system. A privilege afforded prisoners is collect telephone calls to family and friends. That privilege is guaranteed by the **California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Sections 3282(b), 3282(d), 3282(g), and 3282(g)(5)**, as well as by the free speech right granted by the **First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution**.

Up until November 25, 2012, I was able to make collect calls. I can no longer do so. The problem began while I was housed at Calipatria State Prison in Calipatria, CA. Now that I am housed at Centinela State Prison in Imperial, CA, the problem is continuing. This denial has now evolved into a form of cruel and unusual punishment because I am being denied the privilege of calling my family and friends collect, solely because they refuse to be coerced into setting up a pre-paid account with Global Tel*Link (GTL), the telecommunications service provider for inmates of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Traditionally, a collect telephone call is defined as a call, for which the call recipient has agreed to pay the associated costs. These costs usually consist of the basic rate, local charges, and long distance charges. Regardless of where they reside, the call recipients have established accounts with their telecom service providers. Once that contract agreement has been established, the call recipient does not have to be concerned about paying telephone costs to any other company, including to Global Tel*Link.

COLLECT CALLS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED AS AN OPTION FOR INMATES!!!

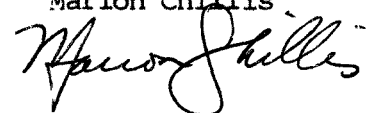
The state of California and the CDCR have recently become de facto agents for GTL and have begun to engage in antitrust violations by making attempts to eliminate all competition for GTL. The CDCR has a sweetheart deal with GTL, whereby family and friends of inmates **MUST SET UP PRE-PAID ACCOUNTS WITH GTL** in order for the inmate to be able to make telephone calls. Alternatively, the call could be paid for by a credit card. Such collusion between GTL and CDCR violates the federal Sherman Act and the Cartwright Act in California. Please see the supporting enclosed letter, dated 12/03/12, that I sent to the California Public Utilities Commission.

My mother lives in the state of Alabama. My daughter and grandchildren live in Florida. I have family, friends, and contacts in many other states, including California. To re-allow traditional collect calls, modifications should be made to GTL's call routing algorithms, **or**, the contract between the CDCR and GTL **should** be abrogated so that prison inmates can freely make collect telephone calls again. My appeal within the CDCR grievance system can be identified by log number **CAL-A-12-02326**. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely, Marion Chillis

CC: CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,
KAMALA HARRIS, AMY MILLER, ACLU, GLOBAL TEL*LINK,
PRISON LAW OFFICE, MARY SHOWE

ENC



George P. Vargo
CC-8008
1600 Walters Mill Road
Somerset, PA 15510

Received & Inspected
FEB 25 2013
FCC Mail Room

January 25, 2013

Julius Genachowski Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

RE: Monopoly on Phone Services in Pennsylvania State
Prisons

Dear FCC:

I am writing to report that the Phone company (Global Tel-Link) has created a monopoly by blocking inmates from making "Collect Calling" to their perspective family members and friends whom have phone services themselves which allow for excepting collect calling. Making them the **sole providers** of collect calls.

In July of 2012, Global Tel-Link; started placing phone Blocks on inmates phone privileges who were making **collect calls** home. This was never made known by Global Tel-Link when they placed bids in to provide phone services for the Inmate population in the State of Pennsylvania prior to signing and agreeing upon a contract. Now, in order for Inmates to make collect calls home to their families, and/or friends, those family members and loved ones must now provide their **checking account number, or credit card** number for the purposes of opening a **pre-paid account** with Global Tel-Link. As was the case with my family members, An agent from Global Tel-Link made an unsolicited phone call to my mother's home and essentially threatened her that if she ever wanted to here from me again; that she would have to open up a pre-paid account with her checking account number.

Furthermore, my mother and many other family members and friends have their own phone services provided by different companies which charge them monthly to allow collect calling capabilities. By blocking all inmates from making collect calls, Global Tel-Link has now created a Monopoly in violation of the **"Sherman Anti-Trust Laws of Title 15 U.S.C.A. §§ 1-7, and the "Clayton Act" of Title 15 U.S.C.A. §§12-17.** My mother has "Verizon" phone services. There are other members that have either "Bell Atlantic" or "Bell South". Not to mention other phone carriers that Global Tel-Link has now blocked from services provided.

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FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-12)

FROM: MICHAEL HELLER #B85253

at "Lawrence Correction Center"

10930 Lawrence Rd.

Sumner, IL 62466

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

(I ask you to Please read this....)

February 14th, 2013
("Happy Valentine's Day!") LOL

...First.... I'm a Law-abiding citizen from a good family, noone I knew ever went to prison. I was a knight of Columbus, Sig Ep, and full-time student. I kept getting gay-bashed, the last time I killed my attacker, a known gang member - after a hung jury, I took a reduced plea of Second Degree Murder just to get out of the County Jail where his gang buddies & relatives from East St. Louis terrorized me. (That was the first injustice...) since coming to Illinois Department of Corrections, expecting to get out early from 'good-time', I have been extorted, beaten, gay-bashed, by inmates and guards. Grievances ignored. Cover-ups by prison officials, no help from Civil Rights groups or family... I've had thousands of dollars in commissary stolen (everytime that I was beat-up and went to Segregation, they took everything!) In the meantime, to avoid the cafeteria where I was beat-up, I'd have to buy enough food to "eat out of my box", costing my Mom at least 5,000 dollars a year (I have the receipts!) Some of that went to buy protection since Internal Affairs often were openly anti-gay, not caring about gay-bashings - covering them up. (I have witnesses!) Commissary was insanely over-priced for junk I needed to keep from going insane - electronics that broke soon after purchase. No Refunds! To top that off the only thing keeping my widowed, invalid 75 year old Mom alive was the phone calls from me - crazy high prices, she had to pay on a retired widow's budget - money she needs for assisted-living, now! The phone monopolies in prison are the tip of the iceberg of injustice in ZDOC prisons, but I will spend the rest of my life trying to bring Justice to this broken system. Please help us. Thanks, MH.

← S.O.S

Michael Heller
#B85253

RE: This is a public comment for CC Docket # 96-128 (the Wright Petition)

TO: Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

ATTN: Chairman Julius Genachowski

FROM: Darrell Wilson (Prison # FM-3910)
SCI-Mahanoy
301 Morea Rd.
Frackville, PA 17932

DATE: Feb.19, 2013

Dear Mr. Genachowski,

Good day Sir. I am writing to you concerning the high cost of prison phone calls. I'm kinda late in writing you, so I won't repeat what other people have probaly already told you. Instead I would just ask for you to please take my words into consideration. I'm from Philadelphia, which is about 1½ hours away from the prison I'm being held at. It costs me a little over \$6.00 to call my family collect, and if I opt to buy a phone card, then I pay \$5.15 for a 15 minute phone call that's really more like 14 minutes and 15 seconds due to the 3 (15) second interuptions by the phone company (GLOBAL TEL LINK) reminding prisoners that their phone calls are being monitored.

My family and I can't afford to call more than once or twice a week and to be quite honest with you, that's on a good week for us. Sometimes I go weeks without talking to my family and this isn't good for the relationship between my daughter and I. Not to mention the fact that my mother is sick and recently had to quit her second part-time job. I love talking to my family Mr.Genachowski because they remind me every time I talk to them where I need to be (home being a productive citizen). Also, I don't know if you have children, but a 10 yr old little girl can definitely be a handful, which is why communication right now for me is very important.

Yes, prisoners can write to their family, but there's certain things that need to be address over the phone right there and not through a week old letter. In closing, I thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely Yours,


Darrell Wilson

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR
THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket 96-128)

February 19, 2013

Received & Inspected

CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
FCC / Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

FEB 25 2013

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I've been incarcerated in prison for the past 20 years. Being allowed to connect with the outside world (family and friends) has been vital to helping me grow as a compassionate and balanced human being.

Connecting through the phone provides a level of immediate intimacy, with family and friends, that cannot be matched by written correspondence. The joyful tone of a loved ones voice that one hasn't heard in decades, the laughter of a little cousin who may only know you through photos and nostalgic stories, and even the heavy sigh of a brother or aunt who may be too sick to visit or write-- all are cherished moments that can only be made possible, through the many barriers of prison, by means of a telephone.

Those cherished moments of being able to connect with loved ones are too few and far between because of the high prison phone costs.

There are cousins and uncles and friends who I haven't talked to in over 15 years simply because they cannot afford to pay for the prison collect call set-up costs (which is currently \$50 here at the Columbia Correctional Institution in Wisconsin). And even if they could muster up the funds to cover the set-up costs, they would not be able to sustain the exorbitant per-minute costs. A 15-minute phone call with someone who's just a state away should not cost more than a gallon of gas.

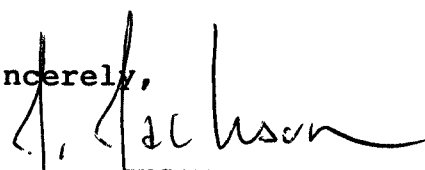
I'm asking that the FCC intervene to place an affordable (and reasonable) cap on prison phone rates. I ask that the ability, for someone who's imprisoned, to connect with loved ones through the phone, be made more economically practical.

If the U.S. Postal Service adopted the same billing policies as prison phone services, mailing a 3 page letter to a cousin in a neighboring state would cost upwards of \$7.00, and such an outcome would be unreasonable, unconscionable and inhumane. The same goes for the current prison phone rates that we, as a captive class, have no choice but to endure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

JEVON JACKSON #299078
COLUMBIA CORR. INST.
PO BOX 900
PORTAGE, WI 53901-0900

Sincerely,


JEVON JACKSON

Federal Communications Commission
445-12th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FCC Mail Room

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I am asking for your understanding of how hard this is on me and it was been going on since my love one has been in prison. It is financially a hardship on me.

John G. BREWER
Name

1031 Lotaco-Florette Rd.
Address

Somerville, Al. 35670
City, state & zip code

(P.S.) A copy of this letter - as copies of every letter and grievance
- I've written - will all be put on my Blog / website, when it
is up and running, next year. Please let me know if you get
this, because at many IDOC prisons, they play games with
our mail. Thank you! ML

MARION CHILLIS G-16111
A1-205L
P.O. Box 5004
Calipatria, CA 92233-5004

December 3, 2012

California Public Utilities Commission
320 West 4th
Los Angeles, CA 90013

RE: DENIAL OF COLLECT CALLS BY GLOBAL TEL*LINK

Dear Sirs:

Since July 1, 2008, I have been an inmate at Calipatria State Prison in Calipatria, California. While being housed here, I have always been able to make collect calls by telephone to family members and loved ones. That privilege is guaranteed by the **California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Sections 3282(b), 3282(d), 3282(g), and 3282(g)(5)**, as well as by the free speech right granted by the **First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution**. Today, my right to make a collect call to my mother was criminally violated.

I am writing to complain about illegal practices by the provider of inmate telephone services at Calipatria State Prison. Global Tel*Link (GTL) is blocking legitimate attempts by inmates to make collect calls, and attempting to force the called party to set up pre-paid accounts with GTL (or use their credit cards to pay GTL).

I have initiated the administrative grievance process within the prison system to correct this problem, however, I feel that the CPUC and the Federal Communications Commission should be made aware of this illegal activity. For example, my mother in the state of Alabama already has a well-established account with her telecom provider and should not be coerced into using the out-of-state services of GTL.

This problem began when the inmate telephones were changed in our housing unit during the month of November 2012. Written notice was posted near the phones, encouraging inmates to follow the instructions on how to set up pre-paid accounts. **NO WARNING INFORMED INMATES THAT FUTURE COLLECT CALLS WOULD BE DISALLOWED BY GLOBAL TEL*LINK!** This morning, I called my mother (256-329-0415) several times on Telephone C in Building 1 of Facility A of this institution, and I learned how our telephone service had been modified. I was never connected nor able to speak with my mother.

Having worked in the past as a telecommunications analyst, I know that these call routing practices in telephone switches are done intentionally and can easily be undone. I would imagine that prison officials or members of their telecommunications staff are knowledgeable of these technicalities too. All inmates should have the option of making collect calls. GTL has taken away that option and denied that freedom of choice to the inmate. The prison system

MARION CHILLIS G-16111
A1-205L
P.O. Box 5004
Calipatria, CA 92233-5004

RE: DENIAL OF COLLECT CALLS BY GLOBAL TEL*LINK
(LETTER TO CPUC; continued.)

seems to be in collusion with that unethical vendor. It is easy to use a subtle and tacit form of intrastate and interstate coercion in order to take advantage of inmate family members and friends, and pressure them into setting up pre-paid accounts with GTL. Those family and friends might think that such a forced decision is the only method they have available for hearing the voice of their loved one. GTL SHOULD BE ORDERED TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM PRACTICING THIS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY.

On February 5, 2008, I wrote and sent a similar letter to you. It described the exact same practice being carried out by Public Communications Services (PCS), the provider of inmate telephone services for the San Diego County Jail in San Diego, California. When I complained about the practice, that action ceased immediately and collect calls became available again for inmates. I hope that this letter helps to bring about the same results in the California prison system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Marion Chillis

CC: Federal Communications Commission, California Department of Consumer Affairs, Kamala Harris, G. J. Janda, ACLU, Mary Showe, Global Tel*Link Customer Service